(in lakhs)

Year	Target	Cataract Operation Performed
2001-02	2.20	2.09
2002-03	2.20	2.45
2003-04	2.22	2.64

NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAMME (NACO)

34 STD clinics, 18 Target Intervention (Tl) Project, 33 VCT Centres, 13 Major Blood Banks, 39 District Blood Banks and 18 Sentinel Sites have been established in the year 2001-02.

Banning pain killer Rofecoxib

275. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the popular pain killer Rofecoxib has recently been banned in the United States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has also been banned in our country by Government on the recommendation of an Expert Group;

(d) if so, the names of the companies who were manufacturing this medicine;

(e) whether Government are aware that this medicine is still available in the shops; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken against those selling this banned drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Based on the announcement made by innovator, Merck USA, on withdrawal of Rofecoxib worldwide on 30th September, 2004, following clinical trial results, which showed an increase risk of confirmed serious events (including myocardial infraction and stroke) compared to placebo, following long-term use, and based on available published literature, expert group in India recommended withdrawal of Rofecoxib formulations.

(d) The names of the major companies who were manufacturing this medicine are: M/s. Ranbaxy Lab., Unichem, Lupin, Torrent Pharma, Sun Pharma, Micro Lab., Dr. Reddy's Lab. etc.

(e) and (f) Notification with regard to ban of Rofecoxib formulations under section 26Aof Drug and Cosmetic Act is under process. Only after publication of said notification the drug stands banned. In the meanwhile a Press Note has been issued to widely publicize this.

Changes in the Mental Health Policy

276. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of bringing drastic changes in the Mental Health Policy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) machinery created for implementation of the above policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to change the present strategy which is to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health delivery system.

Drinking water facility at hospitals in Delhi

277. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hospitals in Delhi do not have proper drinking water facility;